

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1-3, 5-8, and 12-15 remain in this application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, and 15 have been amended. Claims 16-28 were previously withdrawn as the result of a restriction requirement.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended to recite that the electrical contacts of the interface module extend continuously at least one half of the periphery around the body of the interface module. Claim 5 and 12 are amended to recite that the electrical contacts of the interface module extend completely around the periphery of the body of the interface module. Such amendments are supported by FIGS. 4, 5, 7, 11, and 14-17 and the accompanying text.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments submitted, for which entry is requested, place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Fehrman et al., US Patent 6,193,163 ("Fehrman") in view of Atsumi (US Patent No. 5,736,781).

Fehrman discloses a smart card with replaceable chip 14 that has a planar cylindrical body with electrical contacts or leads 18 on one face of the end of the body. *See* Fehrman col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 4, and FIG. 1. Fehrman is not applicable to the present invention in that its disclosure relates to the chip 14 having an electrical connection to a card 10 including a card body 12, not the electrical connection between a card and a card reader. Further, since the contacts are on the surface of the end of the

body, they do not extend around the periphery of the body.

Atsumi discloses an IC module 1 that has surface contact terminals 101-106 on its upper surface and side surface contact terminals 111-116 extending from the surface contact terminals 101-106. *See* Atsumi col. 3, lines 19-29, and FIG. 1. The surface contact terminals extend only partially across the upper surface of the module, and there are no contacts at all on the bottom surface of the module. There are six contacts in all, and if the opposing contacts were connected there would only be three contacts, changing the design of the IC module. Therefore, the electrical contacts do not continuously extend at least one half of the periphery around the body of the IC module, nor completely around the body of the module.

With respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 15, which as amended recite electrical contacts extending continuously over at least one half around the periphery of the interface module body, neither Fehrman nor Atsumi teach or suggest such a limitation. This distinction makes it possible for Applicant's invention to maintain continuous contact between the interface module contacts and the contacts of the interface module reader regardless of the orientation of the interface module with respect to the longitudinal axis, i.e., the interface module can be rotated about the longitudinal axis and maintain continuous connectivity. Such a teaching or suggestion of complete peripheral electrical contacts is required to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *See* MPEP 2143.03.

Dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-7 depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1. Because of those dependencies, these claims contain all of the features of independent claim 1. Dependent claims 12-14 depend either directly or indirectly from

allowable claim 8. Because of those dependencies, these claims contain all of the features of independent claim 8. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5-7, and 12-14 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Fehrman in view of Atsumi. Furthermore, such claims recite unique combinations of elements not disclosed or suggested by Fehrman or Atsumi.

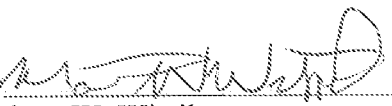
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the interface module claimed in the present application is not fairly taught or suggested by any of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in any reasonable combination suggested by the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-8, and 12-16, at an early date are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment, a telephone interview is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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